

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 QUITO 04872 142210Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 NSC-05 AID-05 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 /065 W  
-----030281 142217Z /15

P R 142111Z JUL 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8795  
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 4872

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SANT, EC  
SUBJECT: GOE ASSURANCES OF ELECTION PURITY

1. THE GOE CONTINUES TO TAKE PAINS TO PUBLICLY ASSURE THE INTEGRITY OF THE JULY 16 ELECTIONS AND TO ENCOURAGE VOTER PARTICIPANTION. ON JULY 12 DEFENSE MINISTER ARRATA DECLARED THAT THE RETORNO PLAN IS PROCEEDING INTO ITS FINAL PHASES, AS PROMISED BY THE GOE, DESPITE THE CRITICISM AND SCEPTICISM OF CERTAIN POLITICIANS. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE ECUADOREAN PEOPLE WOULD FREELY ELECT THE CANDIATE OF THEIR CHOICE. SUPREME ELECTRORAL TRIBUNAL (SET) PRESIDENT BAQUERO DE LA CALLEM, IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE ON JULY 12 AND 13, AVERRED THAT IN ECUADOR (UNLIKE BOLIVIA) THERE IS NO OFFICIAL CANDIATE AND THAT THE VOTERS' DECISION WOULD BE RESPECTED. HE REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF OFFICIAL FRAUD FOR OR AGAINST ANY CANDIDATE AND WARNED OF THE STRONG SANCTIONS THAT WOULD BE APPLIED TO ANYONE ATTEMPTING TO DELAY OR OTHERWISE DESRUPT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. CITING THE CIVIL REGISTRY AS HIS SOURCE, HE ESTIMATED THE MARGIN OR ERROR IN THE VOTING LISTS TO BE NO MORE THAN 2 PERCENT AND CALLED UPON VOTERS TO EXERCISE PATIENCE IN LOCATING THEIR ASSIGNED POLLING PLACES.

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2. PRESIDENT POVEDA IS TO MAKE A TELEVISION ADDRESS THIS EVENING ENCOURAGING ALL ELIGIBLE VOTERS TO PARTICIPATE ON JULY 16, AND MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT JARRIN HAS SCHEDULED A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY TO ONCE AGAIN DESCRIBE THE LATEST SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN TO INSURE THE ELECTION'S SUCCESS.

3. COMMENT: PRACTICALLY EVERY GOE OFFICIAL THAT COUNTS HAS NOW JOINED THE LITANY OF ASSURING THE PURITY OF THE ELECTIONS. THIS SHOULD HELP TO ALLEVIATE RESIDUAL CONCERN THAT SOMEHOW THE PROCESS WILL BE ABORTED AT THE LAST MOMENT. BAQUERO DE LA CALLE'S STATEMENT THAT THERE IS ONLY 2 PERCENT ERROR IN THE VOTING LISTS WILL BE RECEIVED WITH SOME SCEPTICISM, GIVEN RELIABLE PRESS REPORTS OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH THE LISTS IN AT LEAST SOME PROVINCES. EVEN IF HIS FIGURE IS CORRECT, IT MEANS THAT OVER 4.0,000 ELIGIBLE CITIZENS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VOTE BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS WITH THE LISTS.  
CORR

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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